

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN NODS-00

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S/S -REWOODS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 219924

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ME, JO

SUBJECT:HAWK MISSILES TO JORDAN

DELIVER TO AMBASSADOR 0700 TUESDAY, SEPT 16

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SISCO

1. AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE BEEN WORKING INTENSIVELY TO FIND A FORMULA ON THE HAWK MISSILE QUESTION WHICH WILL MEET MINIMAL CONGRESSIONAL NEEDS WHILE STILL NOT IMPOSING RESTRICTIONS THAT WOULD BE POLITICALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR HUSSEIN TO LIVE WITH. THE ARGUMENT HAS SHIFTED FROM THE NUMBER OF BATTERIES (COMMITTEE IS NO LONGER OPPOSING THE 14) TO THE QUESTION OF ASSURANCES THAT THE MOBILITY OF THE HAWKS WILL BE SUFFICIENTLY LIMITED SO THAT THEY CANNOT BE USED IN SUPPORT OF OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS AGAINST ISRAEL.

AFTER PERSONAL

INTERVENTION OF THE SECRETARY, WE HAVE NOW RECEIVED FROM SENATOR CASE WHAT WE JUDGE TO BE ROCK-BOTTOM FORMULA FOR HIM. PARAGRAPH BELOW IS SLIGHTLY AMENDED VERSION OF
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WHAT YOU CLEARED WITH HUSSEIN LAST WEEK. IF HUSSEIN CAN

GO ALONG WITH IT, AND WE RECOMMEND STRONGLY HE DO SO TO
BENEFIT OF OUR LONG RANGE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIPS

THIS CONGRESSIONAL HURDLE OVERCOME. IF THIS IS NOT
ACCEPTABLE, WE FEEL THAT BOTH SENATE AND HOUSE COMMITTEES
WILL INTRODUCE BLOCKING RESOLUTIONS BY WEDNESDAY AT
LATEST AND LIKELY TO BLOCK DEAL. YOU SHOULD DISCUSS
WITH KING FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH WHICH WOULD BE INCLUDED IN
AN UNCLASSIFIED REPEAT UNCLASSIFIED LETTER TO THE TWO
HOUSES OF CONGRESS, AND MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO PERSUADE
HIM THAT THIS IS RESULT OF MAJOR EFFORT ON OUR PART, IN
WHICH SECRETARY HAS PERSONALLY PARTICIPATED. YOU
SHOULD POINT OUT THAT THE RESULT, IF HE AGREES TO OUR
INCLUDING THIS LANGUAGE, IS THAT HE WILL RECEIVE THE
ENTIRE 14 BATTERIES, AND WITHOUT ANY CHANGE IN THE LETTER
OF OFFER. YOU SHOULD ALSO POINT OUT THAT THIS LANGUAGE
IS BASICALLY CONSISTENT WITH WHAT HE HAS TOLD US AND WITH
WHAT HE INCLUDED IN HIS LETTER TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS
WITH REGARD TO HIS INTENDED USE AND DEPLOYMENT OF
THE HAWKS. YOU SHOULD ALSO EMPHASIZE THAT WE ARE NOT
ASKING FOR ANY NEW COMMITMENTS FROM HIM; THIS IS A MATTER
BETWEEN THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE CONGRESS.

2. YOU SHOULD ALSO MAKE THE POINT TO THE KING THAT IT IS
OUR JUDGMENT THAT, JUST AS ATMOSPHERE ON THE HILL HAS
ALREADY IMPROVED SINCE CONCLUSION OF LATEST SINAI AGREE-
MENT, IT WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO AND THAT WHAT MAY SEEM
LIKE SERIOUS PROBLEMS NOW AND CONCENTRATION ON SPECIFIC
DETAILS WILL HAVE LARGELY DISSIPATED WITH THE PASSAGE OF
TIME. IF THE KING SHOWS SIGNS OF REACTING NEGATIVELY
TO THE FOLLOWING SLIGHT REFINEMENT OF PREVIOUSLY CLEARED
TEXT, YOU SHOULD - AS A FRIEND AND WITHOUT ANY
IMPLICATION OF THREAT - URGE HIM TO WEIGH CAREFULLY
AND TO REFLECT UPON THE LONG-TERM IMPLICATIONS FOR HIM
AND FOR OUR RELATIONSHIP IF, DESPITE MAJOR EFFORTS
THE ADMINISTRATION HAS MADE IN THIS MATTER, HE FEELS HE
MUST GO ANOTHER ROUTE ON THE AIR/DEFENSE QUESTION.
STRESS TO THE KING THAT WHILE WE APPRECIATE THIS HAS
BEEN DIFFICULT FOR HIM - AND FOR US - OUR SUPPORT OF THE
STEADFASTNESS OF OUR RELATIONSHIP REMAINS UNDIMINISHED.

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3. LANGUAGE-WHICH WOULD BE INCLUDED IN LETTER IS AS
FOLLOWS: QTE. THE GOVERNMENT OF JORDAN HAS INFORMED
US THAT IT INTENDS TO USE THE HAWK MISSILES SOLELY FOR
THE DEFENSE OF THE AMMAN-ZERKA COMPLEX AND OTHER FIXED
SITES, THAT IS, AIR BASES AND RADAR STATIONS LOCATED
GENERALLY TO THE EAST AND SOUTH OF AMMAN. THE BATTERIES
WILL BE PERMANENTLY INSTALLED AT THESE LOCATIONS AS

FIXED, DEFENSIVE AND NON-MOBILE ANTI-AIRCRAFT WEAPONS.
THE GEOGRAPHIC SITUATION OF THESE SITES AND THE PLANNED

CONFIGURATION OF THE HAWK INSTALLATIONS WILL CLEARLY
DEMONSTRATE THE INTENT OF THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT TO
USE THE WEAPONS FOR PURELY DEFENSIVE PURPOSES. THE
TRAINING TO BE PROVIDED BY THE US GOVT WILL BE TRAINING
APPROPRIATE TO NON-MOBILE WEAPONS. UNQTE.

4. PLEASE REPLY BY NIACT IMMEDIATE AS WE WILL NEED YOUR
RESPONSE TOMORROW MORNING. KISSINGER

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